

DEMOCRATS STAND UP FOR CONNECTICUT CITIZENS.

RELL'S HEALTHCARE CUTS HURT CT.

REAL STORIES

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—“The reforms contained in the Sustinet plan will not only benefit patients across the state, but it will attract much-needed primary care doctors to Connecticut to provide the high quality and cost-effective care that patients deserve. Our health care system is in such grave need of reform that I was surprised that Governor Rell chose to veto this bill and other measures that will ensure patient access to insurance coverage and care.”

LISA LESSARD

WATERBURY

MOTHER OF MAKAYLA LESSARD

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—“Hearing aids are basic medical necessities for children like my 13-year-old daughter, who has progressive hearing loss. Our health insurance only covers hearing aids for children through age 12, so although we pay our premiums every month, when Makayla’s hearing aids stop working, our insurance will not cover new ones. I don’t know how we will afford to purchase them, but without her hearing aids, my daughter hears nothing. Hearing is not a luxury and no parent should have to tell her child she must go without it. I can’t express my disappointment with Governor Rell’s veto of legislation that would extend coverage for this vital medical equipment.”

JUAN VALENZUELA

HARTFORD

CONNECTICUT STATE CAPITOL OFFICE CLEANER

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—“I am a janitor who works at the State Capitol. The money that the state pays my boss’s company is not enough to cover the rising costs of health care for my family. My union fought to increase funding for janitors’ family health care. If we didn’t get the extra money, my daughter and hundreds of other janitors’ spouses and children would end up on HUSKY. Even though it was cheaper for the state to pay a little bit extra for my daughter’s health care than to have hundreds more people enrolled in HUSKY, Governor Rell vetoed the bill. We had to fight hard to win this family coverage in our contract, fight hard to keep the coverage at the Capitol, and fight harder to overturn Governor Rell’s veto. I’d like to know why Governor Rell doesn’t believe people who clean her offices deserve to have health care for their children.”

RELL'S HEALTHCARE CUTS HURT CONNECTICUT: REAL STORIES

BARBARA SLOAN
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—“As a disabled person, my medical costs last year equaled almost 40% of my Social Security disability income, which is almost all my income. Costs would have been higher if not for dedicated doctors who give me many medication samples. I cannot afford all my medication with ConnPACE, let alone without it. In the short run, the state may save money by these budget changes, but in the long run, it’s more likely that more people will end up requiring more costly inpatient care sooner than otherwise, costing more money in the end while providing lower quality health care.”

KELLY PHENIX
EAST HARTFORD
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—“Living with a psychiatric disability, I have tried several medications over a number of years before finally finding the right combination. One of these medications even left me with a permanent and expensive physical condition. Changing the definition of medical necessity for Medicaid patients, as the Governor has proposed, could have devastating consequences for people like me who need access to specific medications that are proven to be effective, so they can continue to lead full lives.”

DAWN APUZZO
NORTH HAVEN
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—“I lost my hair due to Alopecia, unknown hair loss, at age 14. I’ve tried many treatments to regrow my hair, but they all failed. Today I overcome the devastating loss of my hair by wearing a wig to function in my everyday life outside my home. I pay high and increasing premiums each month to my insurance company, but I am discriminated against because it does not cover wigs for my permanent condition. Insurance policies already provide wigs for chemotherapy patients, so I can’t understand why Governor Rell said no to coverage for a woman like me to who suffers in a society that accepts male baldness, but not female baldness.”

KEVIN GALVIN
OWNER OF CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE IN HARTFORD
CHAIR OF SMALL BUSINESSES FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM
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— “After two years of advocating for quality, affordable health care for Connecticut’s small businesses, we turned an important corner when the legislature overrode Governor Rell’s veto of the Sustinet legislation. I am concerned that Governor Rell has yet to react to the dire financial condition of our state’s thousands of small businesses and independent contractors as they continue to deal with economic recovery along with explosive health care costs and diminishing access.”
